

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Meeting Announcement

DEQ announces public meeting on water quality study

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Warwick River, James River, Skiffes Creek, Baptist Run and Deep Creek in Newport News on Thursday September 21, 2006.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Grissom Library located at 336 DeShazor Drive in Newport News. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with community members and local government.

The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality, Conservation and Recreation, and Health are working to identify the sources of bacteria pollution in this watershed. This pollution decreases the quality of the water, and prohibits swimming or recreational use, and the direct harvest and consumption of shellfish in these waters.

During the study, a total maximum daily load, TMDL, will be developed for fecal coliform bacteria *E.coli*, or enterococci for each of these impairments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

Streams with impaired for the Recreational Use include the Upper Warwick River, Deep Creek, and Baptist Run. The James River, Warwick River and Skiffes Creek are impaired for the Shellfish Consumption Use.

For more information, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office in Virginia Beach, by phone (757) 518-2111

or by e-mail jshowell@deq.virginia.gov. Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.